HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE AND GRATITUDE FOR THOSE EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SHOWN OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISHING THE PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, in 2000, President Clinton issued an Executive Order to help protect significant natural and cultural resources within the marine environment by strengthening and expanding the nation's system of marine protected areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of public comments and negotiations between President Clinton and Congress, the National Marine Sanctuaries Amendments Act of 2000 authorized the creation of a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton issued Executive Orders in 2000 and 2001, which created the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve to help ensure the protection of the coral reef ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and related marine resources and species; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation, with contiguous boundaries to include the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the Midway National Wildlife Refuge, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the Battle of Midway National Memorial, the Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary, and overlaid with the Hawaii State Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge; and

WHEREAS, this National Monument designation was the first step towards coordinated management of the unique resources within the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands region and, one year

 later, the Marine National Monument was re-named with its Hawaiian name, Papahānaumokuākea; and

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WHEREAS, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is the largest public conservation trust in the United States and is larger than all of the country's national parks combined; and

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WHEREAS, in 2008, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was designated as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area by the United Nations International Maritime Organization, and is the second marine protected area in the United States to receive Particularly Sensitive Sea Area designation; and

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WHEREAS, in 2010, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was inscribed as the United States' first mixed, natural and cultural World Heritage Site by the delegates to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's 34th World Heritage Convention in Brasilia, Brazil; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that this body hereby expresses support for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and gratitude for those exceptional individuals who have shown outstanding commitment to establishing the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and extends to them its warmest aloha and sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

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OFFERED BY: MAR 1 2 2013